

MINUTES

THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Monday, November 10, 2008

1. Professor Virginia Kleist, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. in Assembly Rooms A/B, NRCCE.

2. Members Present:

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| Abate, M. | Conners, J. | Kirby, B. | Peace, G. | Stack, S. |
| Abraham, R. | Davari, A. | Kleist, V. | Perone, M. | Steranka, P. |
| Ahern, T. | DiBartolomeo, | L. Kuhlman, J. | Plein, C. | Stolzenberg, A. |
| Banta, L. | Famouri, P. | Lake, M. | Rafter, J. | Stuchell, R. |
| Bilgesu, I. | Fredette, H. | Long, K. | Richards, A. | Tower, L. |
| Blaydes, S. | Hall, D. | Malarcher, J. | Riemenschneider, S. | Turton, R. |
| Bonner, D. | Hessl, A. | McCombie, R. | Robbins, J. | Urbanski, J. |
| Bowen, E. | Higgins, C. | McDiarmid, M. | Rockett, I. | Valenti, M. |
| Boyles, J. | Hileman, S. | Murthy, K. | Ruscello, D. | Walls, T. |
| Branch, D. | Huffman, V. | Nelson, C. | Schreurs, B. | Watson, J. |
| Bredehoft, T. | Hutson, Z. | Nestor, P. | Sedgeman, J. | Weihman, L. |
| Bryner, R. | Insch, G. | Nichols, A. | Serafini, M. | Wilcox, G. |
| Caldwell, J. | Iskander, W. | Nutter, R. | Sherwood, L. | Woloshuk, J. |
| Campbell, L. | Jackowitz, A. | Oberhauser, A. | Siegrist, J. | |
| Clark, N. | Kershner, R. | Olson, K. | Spleth, J. | |

Members Excused:

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|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Anderson, J. | Clark, B. | Lastinger, V. | Petronis, J. | Shelton, E. |
| Bergner, G. | Davis, S. | Latimer, M. | Riley, W. | Sherlock, L. |
| Brooks, J. | Hermosilla, P | Mancinelli, C. | Sand-Jecklin, K. | Wenger, S. |

Members Absent:

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|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Bagby, M. | Cottrell, S. | Lively, M. | Nath, C. | Zaslau, S. |
| Bonar, C. | Graber, S. | Mandich, M. | Rauch, H. | |
| Chetlin, R. | Hartman, K. | McGinley, P. | Tallaksen, R. | |
| Comer, P. | Hash, K. | Meckstroth, R. | Vona-Davis, L. | |
| Cottrell, L. | Hunter, S. | Miller, M. | Wilson, M. | |

3. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the Monday, October 13, 2008 meeting. **Motion carried.**

4. Interim Provost Jane Martin reported on the following issues:

- The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (ACRO) will visit the University for the second time this week. It is projected that a final report will be submitted in January, 2009.

- Two sessions about diversity were held last Wednesday, November 5, 2008; approximately 100 faculty, staff, students and department chairs attended. Evaluations reflected that new things were learned and old ideas were reinforced. Interim Provost Martin will work with the dean's council to identify the next steps to be taken.
- The 2010 Implementation Team continues with its regular meetings. Dr. Sue Day-Perroots, Dean, Extended Learning, attended the last meeting and explained how the extended learning strategic plan co-ordinates with the 2010 plan. Dr. Ken Gray, VP, Personnel Administration, and his staff attended an Implementation meeting as well to discuss the student affairs strategic plan and how it links with the University's plan. Additional meetings have been scheduled so input from the focus groups can be presented. The 2010 Implementation Team is focusing on its third annual report, which will be submitted to the Board of Governors in January, 2009.

5. Chair Kleist reported on the following issues:

- On October 27, 2008, the Executive Committee discussed the need to fill two Research Corporation positions that are currently being held by Larry Hornak and Earl Scime. It would be beneficial that representatives to the Research Corporation Board have experience with external grants and funding. Nominations for these two open positions can be forwarded, along with credentials, to Gwen Bergner, Chair, Committee on Committees.
- On October 27, 2008, Patricia Gyurke spoke to the Executive Committee about ways the background check policy for newly hired faculty could be improved. The Chair will meet with Human Resources next week to discuss this policy. A new proposal for background checks may be available in spring, 2009.
- Chair Kleist said 11 proposals were submitted in response to an RFP for Presidential Search firms. The Chair and other team members from administration, the BOG and the faculty, read through the proposals in depth, and on November 6th, merits of each proposal were discussed. A decision will be announced in the near future.
- Steve Kite spoke to the Board of Governors on November 7, 2008 about the need to keep working on salary issues, as well as research and research support. Interaction with the BOG was encouraging, and positive discussion took place between the WVU senior administration, the Faculty Senate representation and the Board members. A report was given by Carolyn Long, BOG Chair concerning the presidential search. Charles Vest, BOG member, commented that many good candidates have shown interest in the presidency position.
- Former Chair Larry Hornak and Provost Lang spearheaded the joint Faculty-Administration 2010 Strategic Plan. Work continues with the 2010 Implementation Team evaluating the progress of five strategic plan goals. Reports have been given from the Research Corporation, Student Affairs and Extended Learning.

- The Ad hoc GEC Writing Committee met and a demonstration of a web-based portfolio tool was given. The portfolio could be used as a supplement to the current GEC writing requirements. Discussion included implementation issues and the need for technology support and training for faculty.
- A flyer was available that discusses the proposed increases in the PEIA health plan. Changes suggest an increase in costs with a decrease in benefits. The Chair contacted Human Resources to gather facts about the increases.

6. The following consent agenda reports were approved:

Annex I, New Courses and Course Changes
 Annex II, Alteration Report
 Annex III, Course Recommendations
 Annex IV, GEC Audits
 Annex V, Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies 2007-08
 Annual Report and 2008-09 Committee Goals

7. Roy Nutter, Advisory Council of Faculty representative, provided a brochure that lists all the schools and representatives that are part of ACF and describes what ACF represents. The brochure lists three higher education faculty issues that will be discussed in the 2009 legislative session. ACF will present its annual report to the HEPC next week.

Professor Nutter distributed information about, “Proposed PEIA Plan Changes.” The synopsis lists premium increases, prescription co-payment increases, and major medical drug plan changes for PPB Plan A.

A PEIA hearing will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, Morgantown, WV.

Professor Nutter provided the following motion concerning an increase in employee’s premiums by the PEIA Finance Board:

“The WVU Faculty Senate questions the need by the PEIA finance board to propose an increase in employee premiums (9% increase in current employee premium and an 11% increase for retirees), to proposed increase in prescription co-pays (60% increase), and increase in “out-of-pocket maximums” (66.6% increase) being proposed by the PEIA finance board.”

“A friendly amendment was given by Lisa Weihman, ECAS, to include the word objects in the motion, so it will read, “The Faculty Senate objects and questions the need by the PEIA finance board.....”

Professor Sedgeman duly seconded the amendment. **Motion carried.** The motion will be given to representatives at Thursday’s PEIA hearing.

8. Sophia Blaydes, Professor Emeritus, distributed a report from the Committee of Retired Faculty. The report consisted of the 2007 monthly workshops, topics, and speakers as well as future workshops. Emeritus Professor Blaydes said there are 650 retired faculty members, and there are

two voting members of the Faculty Senate. She moved that the Committee of Retired Faculty continue as a standing committee of the WVU Faculty Senate. It was duly seconded. **Motion carried.**

9. Chancellor Brian Noland, HEPC, spoke to the Faculty Senate last December; he said there has been a great degree of accomplishment and change across the system since December. The Institution is stronger, more focused, and in the end, there will be a much broader and deeper system of post-secondary education in the state of West Virginia.

The Chancellor gave a power point presentation about, “Policy Priorities for the 2009 Legislative Agenda for Higher Education in West Virginia and Budget Priorities.”

10. Professor Steve Kite, BOG Faculty Senate representative, reported that there will be a state-wide task force meeting on textbook affordability on December 3, 2008; details forthcoming.

Professor Kite, Chair Kleist and Chair-elect Clark attended a BOG meeting on Friday, November 7, 2008; Professor Kite reported on the following issues:

- Approval of a 10-year agreement between the University and the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute.
- Faculty and Staff Salary Increase of 3% at WVU-Technical Institute.
- Kaye Widney, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, led a discussion on the Economic Downturn, and How It Will Impact WVU. WVU is still a bargain compared to other Universities.
- Early Applications are up over last year.
- Salary 84.7% of National Mean for Full Professors but 88.4% for Assistants.
- Research – potential for growth at WVU.

11. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, December 8, 2008.

Barbara Dunn
Committee Secretary